



# the Chalice

Volume 44

May - June 2017

Issue No. 3



## **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN** By Bruce G.

Dear Calix Family,

Do you remember the old Heinz commercials where people stare at a catsup bottle as the red paste glacially makes its way out and onto their plates? In the one I recall, a Carly Simon song plays in the background, "Anticipation, anticipation is making me wait; keeping me waiting." That's the way I feel right now, trying to remain patient as I anticipate what might come next for the Calix Society. This is a good season for anticipation, as we just celebrated our Lord's Ascension and are awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Our Lord tells his apostles to stay in Jerusalem and await the coming of the Holy Spirit. How hard that must have been for them, particularly for St. Peter, who just wanted to get back to fishing after all that had transpired. Yet all Eleven remained obedient to the command they were given, and in response the Spirit of Truth descended on them with tongues of fire and the Church was born.

Many people, myself included, come to Calix seeking a better way to work Step 11, "Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of His will for us, and the power to carry it out." After all, it is this step that most obviously invites us to integrate our Catholic Faith with our recovery. What I am noticing as I work Step 11 is the patience I must practice as

I prayerfully discern God's will for me, but then wait for the power to carry His will out. As with the Apostles, I must stay put and wait for the Holy Spirit to act, particularly if I am truly powerless over people, place and things.

So, here I sit, anticipating all of the good things I see unfolding in the Calix Society, waiting for these things to come to fruition. Number one is the upcoming 60th annual Calix Retreat in St. Paul, MN. The St. Paul unit's Retreat Committee just briefed us on the program they have put together and it sounds fantastic, as they invite us to share in the richness of "Jesus, the face of the Father's merciful love," seen through the lens of the Parable of the Lost Son. What a way to link Faith and recovery! Going to St. Paul, MN is a journey back to the roots of the Calix Society, which leads me to anticipate more excellent writing on the early history and spirituality of Calix from our national Chaplain, Father McKay. The Archives of the Calix Society were recently delivered to Father McKay in Pennsylvania, so that he can continue his research. He has already shared a few excerpts of letters with us, and I am certain that over time he will share more of this enlightening material, and his reflections, with the whole society.

One last item that I am anticipating is a new, more interactive, web site for [www.calixsociety.org](http://www.calixsociety.org). We have a committee working on this project and we hope to be able to share a relaunch date with you at the Retreat. The web site, we hope, will enable us to better share our recovery journey together. We also hope that it will facilitate our practice of both Step 12 and the "Great Commission" given to Christ's disciples at the Ascension.

Pax Tecum

-BG

## The Calix Gardener

By

Father Douglas McKay O.F.S.

This is my last article in a four-part series on the Calix history. Along with other sources most of my information was taken from the written recordings of William J. Montroy, our First Founder. It was no easy task organizing his notes. He himself said “I was asked to try and put in words how the idea of Calix was formed... To whoever has the misfortune to try and manufacture something out of the jumble of thoughts that I speak into this recorder, I ask for their forgiveness.” I forgive you, Bill, but also I thank God for your inspiring facts concerning the foundation of our society.

In the 2017, March – April *Chalice*, I wrote about what I called ‘the Calix seed, the sprout, and the flower’. Now I write about the Calix garden, the growth, and the gardener.

When the first meeting at the Rainbow Cafe ended word got around about the new organization. Father Rudolf Nolan, pastor of Saint Stephen’s, invited the recovery group into the parish gymnasium on the first Sunday of the month for food, drink, and a spiritual meeting. But first these religious souls attended the 7 a.m. Mass. Before the meal that was prepared and served by the parish sodality, the members knelt and recited the Prayer Before A Crucifix and then prayed the Blessing Before Meals. After eating and cleaning up, Father Nolan led the conference on Catholic principles that were related to addiction. He also added a monthly Holy Hour to the recovery program.

As the membership grew by leaps and bounds, Father Nolan suddenly took sick. Father Michael Stosek, a resident at Saint Stephen’s and a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, became the Spiritual Director. He was

the one who gave the name Calix (Latin for chalice) to our society. Bill Montroy uses the word cup for chalice. “Yes, this is what we represented,” he said. “First the cup of booze – the devil for alcoholics. Now we were receiving the cup of the blood of Christ. A miracle? Yes.” These words help us to understand that Jesus is the center of our recovery society, and we as Calix members ‘substitute the cup that sanctifies for the cup that stupefies’. Eucharistic Therapy!

Around this time Bill Montroy asks the Bishop (more than likely Archbishop John Gregory Murray) ‘how to get the help needed to get Calix on the road’. The Bishop says, “Bill you know what I do when I want something desperately, I ask a cloister order of Nuns to Pray for it – so far there batting average is 100%.” One Calix member that really needs to be mentioned here is Gene Trow. He came aboard right after the Rainbow Cafe meeting, and he stayed aboard as a Calix director for the rest of his life. Following the Bishop’s advice, Bill and Gene and probably some others visited the Carmelite monastery (Lake Elmo, Minnesota) where behind a screen they met Mother Grace who promised their community prayers and good works for the development of the society.

As they were leaving the cloister with cheerful hearts, Gene said, “Bill, their house sure needs a paint job.” At the next meeting, the Calix members decided not only to paint the prayerful place but also to repair it—inside and out—beginning with the fence. They worked on Saturdays and evenings throughout the whole summer incorporating into the society *works of mercy*: painting, carpentry, plumbing, electric, and anything else that needed to be done for the good nuns who increased their sacrificial prayers for them. Also, Bill would solicit the prayers of the Poor Clare’s (Bloomington, Minnesota) for the growth of what I like to call ‘the Calix Garden’.

The Calix Gardener, (cont. from pg. 2)

With the sacrificial prayers of the good nuns came the second Unit, Saint Paul, then Saint Cloud, Minnesota, and then onward to 70 cities in the United States, reaching into Canada and Great Britain. However, there were no official headquarters, no office, no literature, and no staff. Problems mounted, divisions occurred, zeal was lost. And then, the Hand of God reached down once again and cultivated His recovery garden.

The Vatican News, L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO, reported in their weekly English edition that on May 11, 1974, the Holy Father, Paul VI, received a large group of pilgrims who were celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the International Calix Society. The pilgrims were accompanied by the Coadjutor Archbishop of Saint Paul, Most Rev. Leo C. Byrne; International President, Mr. Robert Johnson; the Chaplain, Rev. Arnold Luger; and the Vice-Chaplain, Rev. Leo Dolan.

The Holy Father, in the Consistorial Hall, talked to the pilgrims on alcoholism, Calix, Matt Talbot, and the disastrous effects of alcoholic abuse. Continuing his papal talk, he spoke about the Calix remedy:

“We rejoice to see how many people esteem recourse to a higher power in overcoming the problems related to alcoholic abuse. And worthy of special mention is the fact that you identify this higher power as the supernatural grace of Jesus Christ, the healing power of his word and of his sacraments. In this latter regard we are happy to encourage you to draw special attention to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to the Eucharist.”

The Vatican newspaper even named Matt Talbot as an admirable patron. The Holy Father goes on to say “You have chosen to look

upon Matt Talbot as an admirable exemplar of discipline and supernatural virtue....

“May your efforts and those of all men endeavoring to assist in such an important work be blessed by God, ‘in whom we live and move and have our being’ (Acts 17, 28) and without whose help we are incapable of supernatural conversion.”

After his Apostolic Blessing, the Holy Father adds, “We must have confidence and inspire others whom you assist with still greater confidence; then the activities carried on by the ‘Calix Society’ will always have more influence on society.”

Pope Paul VI words of encouragement brought back the zeal and union of the Calix movement and the Vicar of Christ reaffirmed why Calix was founded.

In an article issued by the “Columbia” magazine, April 1977, titled CALIX – WHAT AND WHY and a subtitle *Where recovering alcoholics recover their faith*, William J. Conroy, secretary of Calix, writes, “Pope Paul’s words of praise and encouragement led to the opening of a central office in Minneapolis and the appointment of a full-time director (the late Gene Trow). Today this director and the society’s secretary, both retired businessmen, see that mail is answered promptly, a newsletter is published monthly, literature is published and distributed and regular contact is maintained with units throughout the country. New units are being formed regularly and establish groups are being activated. The society once again is moving forward.”

In our day and age, I hope and pray that God will bless us members with more Papal and Episcopal support to restore our courage and zeal in proclaiming the Good News of Calix. In our time, we are approaching the fourth quar-

The Calix Gardener (cont. from pg. 3)

ter-century of our society, and I can't think of a better way to end this four-part series of our history than the way Conroy ended his article:

“Today Calix is in its second quarter-century eagerly expecting new life and growth. The field is unlimited because alcoholism (and I add drug addiction) is rampant, claiming new victims every day. Perhaps the disease never will be conquered completely, but the sincere men and women who are ready to escape from the torment of this dreadful affliction have the answer of the Calix Society: ‘Substitute the cup that sanctifies for the cup that stupefies.’”  
Eucharistic Therapy!

Yes, indeed, Jesus Christ, ‘the Way, the Truth, and the Life’, in whom ‘we live and move and have our being’ is the solution to the plague of addiction; and He is, by Word and Sacrament, the *Calix Gardener*.

**“Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith” (1 Pet 5:8, RSV-CE).**

By Dave C., Virginia

For us in and around the Calix Society, this verse of Holy Scripture can serve as a watchword. Sobriety is the key virtue for our recovery; if we fail to live it, we will fall right back into the vices that brought us to the Program and our Society in the first place. Knowing how to live it is at the heart of the matter for us.

Just prior to this verse, St. Peter writes “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you. Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you.” Then follows the command to sobriety.

I suggest, therefore, that we reach sobriety only when we first humble ourselves and then cast out our anxieties. Stopping the addictive

behavior is but the beginning of our sobriety. Steps 1 – 6 show us how to humble ourselves, in two stages: first, the admission and the decision; and then -- only then – the moral inventory, general confession and entire readiness. Steps 7 – 11 show us how to cast our cares upon Him: humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings, because only after completing Step 6 can we do anything humbly; making our list; making amends as best we can, examinations of conscience; and prayer and meditation: these acts are the means by which we turn it over.

Only then are we really capable of being sober and watchful, and not just for ourselves, but for others who suffer because of any addiction. We reach and live sobriety and watchfulness by becoming men and women of prayer whose action is the fruit of our contemplation.

<i>Calix Society</i>	Date: _____
<i>International Headquarters</i>	
<i>P.O. Box 9085</i>	<i>(800) 398-0524</i>
<i>St. Paul, MN 55109</i>	
<a href="mailto:secretary@calixsociety.org">secretary@calixsociety.org</a>	
<b><u>Membership Application</u></b>	
<i>THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CALIX</i>	
Name: _____	
Street Address: _____	
City/State/Zip _____	
Telephone/ e-mail: _____	
Unit: _____	
Dues/ \$25.00/ yr: Please enclose a check to the <i>calix society</i>	
_____	
Signature	

## From the Treasurer

Ken Johnston

“Hello” from your new treasurer. I appreciate the trust our board of directors has placed in me to keep an eye on the finances of the society. We have also solicited the help of an outside CPA to assist with auditing and tax filings in order to make sure the society maintains accurate records and its nonprofit status with the IRS.

Monitoring the financial transactions of the society also includes all those that involve membership so the maintenance of the membership database, including active and lapsed members, as well as keeping the current list of email addresses now falls under the treasurer.

I am happy to report that the society is on a good – not great – financial footing at present. However, we have a number of projects we are looking to embark on including a complete overhaul of the outdated (and often cumbersome) web site, updating a number of our existing pamphlets and the creation of additional works including pamphlets and a Calix handbook.

The other area we need to address is membership. As of this writing we have 188 members that are current on their dues (\$25 per year). There are another 162 members whose memberships lapsed on 1/31/2017 and 36 on 1/31/2016 (more than half our membership is now lapsed). I know that part of the drop in membership is due to people who become members via the web site and aren't affiliated with a unit who quickly become disappointed with the web site. That is why we need to overhaul it. Many others, though, have chosen not to renew and we'd like to know why. Drop me a line at [ken@philly-calix.com](mailto:ken@philly-calix.com) if there is a reason(s) why you have chosen not to renew. We

would like the opportunity to fix it and keep you as a member.

Also a couple other notes about membership: first, membership is based on the calendar year, January to December with a 30 day grace period until January 30th of the following year. If you register after November 1 of any given year, your membership will include the following year. If this is a hardship, please let us know and we can work things out. Do not wait until 11/1 to become a member just because of the cost. We had to put a cutoff somewhere and 11/1 was the choice.

Second, beginning in 2018 we will begin reissuing membership cards that will contain the official Calix prayer - this is being developed right now and will be announced at the national retreat in St. Paul in August! We are also looking to bring back an old publication, “The Calix Handbook”, that will be sent to all current members and each new member when they register.

Your board of directors is very excited about the path we are currently on. With the decision to add Venerable Matt Talbot as an official patron, in addition to the Blessed Mother under the title of Our Lady of Recovery, we believe that the graces will begin to flow and that we are seeing the beginning of a new springtime for the society. Our hope is that you will become an active participant, both at the unit and national level! For those that don't have a unit nearby, please consider starting one – we will help you! If starting a unit is not possible, remember that we now have bi-weekly online meetings where you can call in by phone or join the meeting over the internet in order to connect with other Calix members.

## Retreat: Note from St. Paul

We have included a copy of the registration form in this issue, so that people who only receive the newsletter by mail or want to pay by mail can do so. You'll note that the address to send the form and check to is our St. Paul, MN address:

Calix Society  
PO Box 9085  
St. Paul, MN 55109

The retreat starts with registration on Friday morning, and activities began with welcome remarks at **1:00 PM** by Dana C., the St. Paul Unit President and Fr. Douglas McKay, Calix International Chaplain. Also, Auxiliary Bishop Cousins will be the principle celebrant of the Mass as well as the **keynote speaker for the banquet on Friday evening**. This is a break from the past wherein the banquet has usually been on Saturday night, due to the busy schedule of the bishop. Please plan your arrival times, so you don't miss out on these important activities. If you have questions, please contact Jim B. at (651) 779-6828 or Dana C. at (612) 227-8179.

12-Step Review (Set) edited by Fr. Emmerich Vogt	\$15.00 Ppd
The 12 Steps and Catholic Spirituality by Fr. Leo Dolan	\$1.00 ea.
Introduction to Calix Packet	\$1.75 ea.
A Word for the Problem Drinker	\$0.40 ea
Calix, What and Why	\$0.30 ea
How it Works-Spiritually	\$0.30 ea
Information for Chaplains	\$0.30 ea
Matt Talbot Medals	\$0.80 ea
Information for New Units	\$0.30 ea
Calix Induction Ceremony	\$0.30 ea
Calix Pin (Members Only!)	\$5.00 ea

NEW! Matt Talbot Prayer/Relic Card. Color cards contain prayer for Matt's canonization, prayer asking for Matt's intercession and a piece of relic cloth that was touched to a 1st Class relic making it a 3rd class.	\$1.00 ea
NEW! Audio Version of Recovery meditations on the Stations of the Cross by Msgr. Harrington and narrated by Gerard King**	\$6.00 Ppd
Calix and the Twelve Steps by Fr. Arnold Luger ** SPANISH EDITION **	\$9.00 Ppd
Calix, What and Why ** SPANISH EDITION **	\$1.00 ea
Matt Talbot sculpture See flyer under "resources". Send an email to <a href="mailto:help@philly-calix.com">help@philly-calix.com</a> before ordering to arrange for local pickup in Philadelphia and save the shipping cost.	\$75.00 Ppd
Matt Talbot sculptures for the UK. Due to shipping costs we need to add \$10 US to the cost.	\$85.00 Ppd
Calix Banner - with pole and rope to hang it	\$50.00 Ppd
Calix Banner - without pole and rope	\$40.00 Ppd
Sister Ignatia DVD. Documentary on the life of Sr. Ignatia and her role in early AA	\$19.00 Ppd
Recovery Meditation On The Stations of The Cross by Msgr. Harrington. Great resource for your meetings during Lent!	\$5.00 Ppd
Heaven's Homecoming by Fr. Douglas McKay (Grays Ferry Spiritual Guide) Note that the Kindle version is now available at amazon.com. Use the link from the Calix homepage to get to Amazon and then look at "Kindle Books"	\$13.00 Ppd
Calix and the Twelve Steps by Fr. Arnold Luger ** NOTE ** There is also a Kindle version of this book available at Amazon.com. Go to the Calix homepage and click on the Amazon banner to purchase for \$5.99!	\$10.00 Ppd
The Light of Faith (Reprinted!) by Fr. Francis Canavan	\$9.00 Ppd
By The Grace of God by Fr. Francis Canavan	\$11.00 Ppd
The Soul of Sponsorship (From letters between Bill W. and Fr. Dowling) by Robert Fitzgerald, S.J.	\$14.00 Ppd
Sister Ignatia Angel of Alcoholics Anonymous by Mary Darrah	\$19.00 Ppd
A 12-Step Approach to the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius (52 Meditations, & their relation to the 12 steps) by James Harbaugh, S.J.	\$20.00 Ppd
Let the Oppressed Go Free by Cardinal Justin Rigali	\$6.00 Ppd



## 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CALIX SOCIETY CONVENTION

### **WHEN**

Friday: Aug 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 1:00 PM CDT  
 Through  
 Sunday: Aug 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 1:00 PM CDT

### **WHERE**

Anderson Student Center  
 University of St. Thomas  
 2115 Summit Avenue  
 Saint Paul, MN 55105



### **CONTACT**

Dana Conroy  
 Retreat Coordinator  
 Email: [d.conroy@comcast.net](mailto:d.conroy@comcast.net)  
 Phone: (612) 227-8179

### **Greetings!**

Join us for a weekend filled with spiritual refreshment, fellowship, and a celebration of 60 years of Calix! See Registration below.

The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis' Calix Chapter invite you to share in the richness of "Jesus, the face of the Father's merciful love," seen through the lens of the *Parable of the Lost Son*.

The Most Reverend Andrew H. Cozzens, auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese, opens the weekend with a special Mass and keynote. Father James Livingston, pastor at the Church of St. Paul in Ham Lake, opens Saturday with a Mass for spiritual renewal and healing.

And that is just a beginning. The weekend is sure to invigorate with the Sacraments, speakers, workshops, reflection, meals, tours, and maybe a surprise or two.

We are on the spectacular grounds of the University of St. Thomas and the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity at UST. We do hope you will come.

**All blessings in Christ,**

*Limited Scholarships Available*

### **REGISTRATION**

#### ***Online***

Please fill out the following form at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/CalixMSP>

#### ***By Mail***

Please print form located at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/CalixMSP>

Mail Form to: Calix Society  
 PO Box 9085  
 St. Paul MN 55109

#### ***By Phone***

Please contact:  
**Dana Conroy**  
**(612) 227-8179**

**Vol. 44, Issue 3, May - June, 2017**

**THE CALIX SOCIETY**

PO Box 26

Glenside, PA 19038

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

**Please check your label-**

The expiration date will always be at the end of the year.

Consider joining the Gratitude Club.